

To The Judiciary Committee,

I am writing to express my opposition to HB 6355, An Act Concerning Risk Protection Orders or Warrants.

In the bill as it stands, it would allow for non-police complainants to apply for a warrant directly to a judge. No proper investigation, no notice to the person being filed against. It is simply too easy under this bill to make the call and have the police raid this persons' home. There's no specification on what kind of evidence would be needed, no clear definition of what merits this kind of extreme action. This bill allows too much room for unfounded accusations to ruin lives by abusing the power of our police. There's no due process in this bill, and this person is convicted before being able to defend themselves in a court of law.

In other states we've seen similar "Red Flag" styled laws implemented to discriminate against law-abiding citizens, and result in fatal shootouts because of a lack of communication.

I believe in a future where we can help our friends and family in need, but our first instinct shouldn't be to call the courts. Let's table this idea for now, and find a solution that involves mental health professionals that are qualified to help.

Thank you for your time,
Jon Russo